



CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Commission On Disability

Meeting Date: April 13, 2020

MINUTES

Room Zoom

Time: 6:00PM * New Start Time

Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor

Barney Heath,
**Director, Planning &
Development**

Amanda Berman
**Director, Housing &
Community Development**

Tiffany Leung
**Planner
Community Development**

Members

Lakshmi Kadambi, Co-Chair
Anne Marie Killilea, Co-Chair
Jane Brown, Treasurer
Warren Abramson
Rob Caruso
Lucie Chansky
Rosemary Larking
Sandra Lingley
Barbara Lischinsky
Girard Plante
Eileen Sandberg
Matt Volpi

Jason Rosenberg
Chairman Emeritus

Advisor

Sergeant Bob Lee, Jr.
Newton Police Department

Staff

Jini Fairley
ADA/Sec 504 Coordinator
617-796-1253

1000 Commonwealth Ave.
Newton, MA 02459
T 617-796-1240
F 617-796-1254

This meeting will be a virtual meeting on Zoom, by phone or by computer/iPad:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/415115921>

Meeting ID: 415 115 921

Commission Members Present:

Lakshmi Kadambi, Co-chair, remotely on Zoom

Jane Brown, Treasurer, remotely on Zoom

Rob Caruso, remotely on Zoom

Lucie Chansky, remotely on Zoom

Rosemary Larking, remotely on Zoom

Sandra Lingley, remotely on Zoom

Barbara Lischinsky, remotely on Zoom

Girard Plante, remotely on Zoom

Eileen Sandberg, remotely on Zoom

Matt Volpi, remotely on Zoom

Commission Members Absent:

Anne Marie Killilea, Co-chair

Warren Abramson

City Staff and Advisors Present:

Jini Fairley, ADA/Section 504 Coordinator, remotely on Zoom

Tiffany Leung, Planning, remotely on Zoom

Sgt. Bob Lee, Police, remotely on Zoom

Dana Hanson, Mayor's Office, remotely on Zoom

Shelby Booth, remotely on Zoom

Mark Kelly, Parks, Recreation, & Culture, remotely on Zoom

Guests:

Nathan Persampieri, remotely on Zoom

1. Introductions (6:00-6:05)



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At the time of introductions, Anne Marie will not be joining the meeting as she is ill. Warren had not yet joined and Jane temporarily lost her phone connection or was on mute.

2. Athletes Unlimited-Mark Kelly (6:05-6:35)

Mark Kelly, Director of the Special Needs Program of the Parks, Recreation, and Culture Department (PRC), gave a very informative presentation of the therapeutic recreation programs and activities and the partnership with Athletes Unlimited, a non-profit 501C3 organization. Mark gave the history and development of the Special Needs Programs, providing recreational activities for children and adults with disabilities, started back in 1978, when our very own Lucie Chansky and several other parents advocated for such a program to the Parks & Recreation Department. The first director started Echo Bridge, the largest and inclusive summer camp for children with and without disabilities in cooperation with the School Department, still going strong today, , a one-week residential camping program, and many daily and weekend recreational and leisure activities, even going to rock and Roll concerts. The program is nationally known, featured on NBC Today Show and local TV channels. In 1991, several key parents organized a non-profit, now known as Athletes Unlimited, to raise funds to support the programs and activities of the city's Parks & Special Needs Recreation Department, such as Paddy's Road Race, in order to pay for such necessities as uniforms and equipment, transportation, Special Olympics fees and scholarships. Annually these programs and activities serve over 300 athletes with varied disabilities from the age of 4 to 76. During the Stay-At-Home order for the past 4 weeks, Mark and staff were able to go online/virtual very quickly and run 3 activities daily with weekly contest and loads of fun! Mark wrapped up his presentation with a video, showing many of the recreational activities and testimonies from several athletes. For more information please check out Mark's presentation on page 6.

There were questions about their track program, age of children at Echo Bridge, and seniors with disabilities, etc.

3. CDBG Report (6:35-6:40)

Tiffany gave her report of the status of the access projects being funded by CDBG funds. Her report is on page 9. Barbara asked why bump outs are needed at these locations and Tiffany said she relies on the expertise of

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DPW to provide the technical aspect of their design and the bump outs are necessary in order to provide ADA compliance, in particular, Jini added, to flatten out the steepness of the curb cuts' slopes.

4. CDBG Overview_Architectural Access (6:40-7:00)

Tiffany presented an overview of the different programs that CDBG funds, with emphasis on the 5% of the allocated CDBG funds for Architectural Access, to improve the accessibility and to remove barriers to facilities, parks, and infrastructures so that Newton residents with disabilities can have equal access. Her presentation is on page 10. There were questions and discussion if CDBG funds can be used to purchase accessible benches, as those funds were used in the past for that. Tiffany will get back to the COD on this, as the funds need to principally benefit people with disabilities.

5. Approval of 3/4/20 and 3/9/20 Meeting Minutes (7:00-7:05)

Lakshmi asked if there were any changes needed to be made to the minutes of the 2 March meetings, on the 4th and the 9th of March. Lucie said that the minutes of one of the March meetings did not make it clear that COD members might rotate/alternate to attend the quarterly meetings with the Mayor along with the Co-chairs, not just the same member. Jini said she would clarify that point if possible. Dana said she would check with the Mayor if the Mayor approves that idea. Rosemary made a motion to accept the minutes of the March 4 meeting, as amended. Lucie seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 9-0-1 (Girard abstained due to absence from this meeting). There was a second vote for the March 9 meeting, with the same members making the motion and seconding. The motion to accept the minutes for the 3/9/20 meeting passed unanimously by a vote of 10-0.

6. Accessible Fines Reports (7:05-7:10)

Sgt. Lee gave the reports for fines collected, for the month of March and for the fiscal year to date. These reports are on pages 13 & 14.

7. Treasurer's Report (7:10-7:15)

At this time, Jane, COD Treasurer, had lost her connection to the meeting or was muted, and since there were no changes to the balances since March, the report was not read out loud. The Treasurer's report is on page 15.

8. ADA Coordinator's Report (7:15-7:20)

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Jini gave a report on her activities as ADA Coordinator. Her report is on page 16.

9. Covid19 Impact (7:20-7:50)

There was mixed reaction to how much 2-1-1 is helpful or not. Girard mentioned that Boston Center for Independent Living (BCIL) is sending email updates and resources to those on their PCA program. There was some discussion about groceries, food pantries, and delivery options, programs that have sprung up, like some grocery stores having curbside pickup, and more will be provided as the weeks go on. Dana said that the city is working to develop ways to help anyone who is having trouble getting food and groceries, and encouraged calling the Citizen's Assistance line at City Hall, Linda Plazonja. Lucie said that some group homes do not have masks and having trouble finding them. Girard said that Keyes Pharmacy has surgical masks, and selling only 5 to each customer. Members will let Jini know of any Zoom forums or services that would be helpful for the members to know about and will email these resources as they become available.

10. Planning for the ADA 30th Anniversary (7:50-8:20)

Because the future of safe, in-person events being very uncertain for the summer and possibly the fall, some of the events discussed in the March meetings may need to be virtual. Nathan spoke about some of his ideas for celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the ADA, such as a film screening related to the history of the ADA, such as "Lives worth Living" or a new film on Netflix, "Crip Camp". Nathan and Lakshmi are researching just how that could happen virtually. Also talked about is an event space in the late fall as a possibility. Jini checked with the Newton Free Library, and the Druker Auditorium will most likely not be available. Lucie mentioned that perhaps the Price Center could be reserved. A possible date was December 3, which is International Disability Awareness Day. Lakshmi checked in with members as to their progress in writing articles and fact sheets on various topics, such as service animals, disability etiquette, accessible and affordable housing, a brochure about the COD, a data base of Newton disability organizations, and much more. These materials will be used if we are able to display and hand out at the Harvest Fair, if it happens in the fall.

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11. Quarterly Meeting with Mayor (8:20-8:30)

Lakshmi reported that in her and Anne Marie's meeting with the Mayor, the Mayor was very interested in how all were doing during this Covid-19 crisis, both individually and what we are hearing from the disabled community, such as what are the pressing needs. Also talked about starting a COD Facebook page, especially for a place to publicly post interesting and important materials that members want to share with each other and the public.

12. Adjournment (8:30)

The meeting adjourned at 8:40PM.

These minutes were prepared from an audio recording of this meeting and submitted by Jini Fairley.

NEXT MEETING DATE: May 11, 2020

The location of this meeting is wheelchair accessible and reasonable accommodations will be provided to persons with disabilities requiring assistance. If you need a reasonable accommodation, please contact the city of Newton's ADA/Sec.504 Coordinator, Jini Fairley, at least two business days in advance of the meeting: jfairley@newtonma.gov or (617) 796-1253. For Telecommunications Relay Service, please dial 711 or call City Hall's TTY/TDD line at 617-796-1089.

Reports and Presentations:

Athletes Unlimited-Monday April 13 COD Meeting.pdf

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Newton Athletes Unlimited

COD Board Meeting

Monday April 13, 2020

22
25
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Newton Parks & Therapeutic Recreation

In 1978, a group of mothers of children with disabilities approached the Commissioner of Newton Parks & Recreation Department about starting a program to serve the needs of residents with disabilities.

Gary Hoffsetter was hired that same year as the department's first Special Needs Director.

He started a wide assortment of recreation and leisure activities on weeknights and weekends. He also started Camp Echo Bridge, a camp for children and young adults with disabilities.

Gary was great about getting his participants out and into the community. He took athletes to rock concerts and in his second year he started a one-week residential camping program.

Newton has always been a forerunner in community-based therapeutic recreation in the State of Massachusetts and beyond.

list end

180
181
182
183

Newton Athletes Unlimited, Inc

list of 4 items

In 1991, several key parents in the program started the Newton Area Corporation for the Benefit of Special Needs Athletes.

It was a 501c3 non-profit with the mission of raising funds to support the Special Needs programming offered through the Newton Parks & Recreation Department.

They held bake sales, spaghetti suppers, pancake breakfasts (etc.) to help pay for uniforms, equipment, transportation to events, Special Olympic fees and scholarships for those in need.

Together the Newton Parks & Recreation Department's Special Needs program and Newton Athletes Unlimited, Inc has been a winning combination for 42 years!

306
307
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Currently serving over 300 athletes through year-round programming

Track

Swim Team

Weight Training

Yoga
Zumba
Basketball
Baseball
Cheerleading
Theatre
Ice Skating
Ski Trip
Floor Hockey
Soccer
Adult Socials
Bowling
Swim Lessons
Holiday Parties
Art
Dinner's Out
Tennis
Irish Step Dancing
Adult Overnights Spring & Summer
Vacation Week Programming
Attending Sports Events

425

426

427

428

Camp Echo Bridge

- Largest camp run by the City of Newton. We work with the Newton School Department to provide inclusive programming.
- Over 300 campers each summer (20% of campers have disabilities).
- We have three teachers from the Newton School Department (math, language arts, and social pragmatic) as well as one inclusion facilitator
- 6-week day camp followed by a one-week residential camping program

515

516

517

518

Major Events & Fundraisers

- Kevin Clancy Basketball Tournament, welcoming over 30 teams across Eastern Massachusetts (March)
- Awards Ceremony, a night we get all our star athletes, coaches and volunteers and families together (May)
- Schultz Family Kids Triathlon (July) – started in 2019
- Paddy's Road Race (October) – largest fundraiser of the year welcoming over 2,500 participants
- Boston Marathon & Falmouth Road Race Fundraisers
- Annual Fund (December)

614

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616

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618

Responding to COVID-19

- 3 Virtual Programs a day (10am, 2pm, 7pm) to give our athletes needed structure and connection during this time.
- Zumba, Yoga, Boot Camp, Cardio-Boxing, Art, Walking Group, Dance Party, Trivia, Family Feud, Categories, Virtual Camp Fire, Poetry Slam, Theatre
- Closed Facebook Page so our athletes, coaches and volunteers can interact during this time (weekly contests, daily riddles)

697

698

699

700

Our Story Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EhWvgWBNICA>

**Newton Commission on Disability
CDBG Access Projects Report
April 13, 2020**

FY20 Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFBs) – (CD20-03A; Budget: \$66,292.29; Expended: \$0; Balance: \$66,292.29) The COD voted to allocate FY20 architectural access funds to the installation of four sets of RRFBs at the following intersections: Centre Street/Pleasant Street; Christina Street; Lincoln Street/Chester Street; and River Street/Elm Street. Dagle Electrical Construction Corp. was awarded the contract. **The contractor has received some materials and expects the remaining ones to come into the shop by next week. Once the materials are secured, the contractor will begin scheduling for installation.**

FY20 Park Pathway Installations – (CD20-03B; Budget: \$30,500; Expended: \$0; Balance: \$30,500) The COD voted to allocate FY20 architectural access funds to the installation of accessible pathways to park amenities across the City. Locations are Auburndale Playground, Weeks Field, and West Newton Common. **Staff will begin circulating the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between DPW and Parks for signatures.**

FY20 Curb Cut Pool – (CD20-03C; Budget: 31,882.33; Expended: \$0; Balance: \$31,882.33) The COD voted to allocate FY20 architectural access funds to the installation of curb cuts. **At the March 9, 2020 COD meeting, the COD voted to allocate FY21 CDBG funds, combined with FY20 CDBG funds, for the installation of curb cuts at three intersections. The vote and locations are as follow:**

- **Watertown Street and West Street**
- **Watertown Street and Edinboro Street**
- **Centre Street and Trowbridge Street**

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CDBG Overview

Architectural Access

CITY OF NEWTON

Department of Planning and Development

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COMMISSION ON DISABILITY -APRIL 13, 2020

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Purpose of CDBG

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Annually, City of Newton receives Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

•Goal ofCDBG:To develop viable communities through provision of decent housing, suitable living environments, and the expansion of economic opportunities for low-to-moderate income persons.

☒Low-to moderate-income refers to a gross annual household income at or below 80% of the area median income(AMI); or

☒Presumed eligible population

Low

-

to Moderate

-

Income

146

147

Effective as of April 1, 2020

Annually, HUD issues new income limits.

1234530% AMI\$26,850\$30,700\$34,550\$38,350\$41,45050%

AMI\$44,800\$51,200\$57,600\$63,950\$69,10065%

AMI\$54,145\$61,880\$69,615\$77,350\$83,53880%

AMI\$67,400\$77,000\$86,650\$96,250\$103,950100%

AMI\$83,300\$95,200\$107,100\$119,000\$128,520120%

AMI\$99,960\$114,240\$128,520\$142,800\$154,224FY 2020 Income Limits Summary - Newton, MAIncome LevelHousehold

Size

Presumed Eligible Population

171

172

HUD has identified the following groups to be principally made up of low-to moderate-income persons, also known as “presumed eligible populations”

- Abused children
- Battered spouses
- Severely disabled adults
- Homeless persons
- Illiterate adults
- Persons with AIDS
- Migrant farm workers
- Elderly (aged 62+)

list end

CDBG Budget & Priorities

255

256

259

Housing

60%

Admin

20%

Human Services

15%

Architectural Access

5%

Planning Process

287

288

5-Year Consolidated Plan

1-Year Annual Action Plan

Consolidated Annual Performance & Evaluation Report

318

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Timeline

324

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January Discussion of Prospective Architectural Access Projects

February Allocation and Vote of Architectural Access Projects, for CDBG funding

March Draft of Annual Action Plan

April Planning & Development Board Public Hearing, Vote to Recommend Annual Action Plan to City Councilor and Mayor

May Submission of Annual Action Plan to HUD

July Beginning of Fiscal Year

Eligible Architectural Access Projects

395

396

- Under Architectural Access, CDBG funds may be used to remove building materials and architectural barriers that restrict mobility and accessibility of elderly or severely disabled persons.

- o Eligible costs: Curb cuts, accessible pedestrian signals, pathways

- o Ineligible costs: Accessible computers and devices, including hearing aids

Eligibility

Exceptions and

Additional Criteria

464

465

- CDBG funds may not be used for improvements of “buildings for the general conduct of government,” except for architectural access improvements

- o Eligible costs: City Hall Single-Use, Accessible Toilet Room

- o Ineligible costs: Furnishing and personal items

- CDBG funds, under architectural access, may be used to support projects for non-profit organizations, who are open to general public. Organization does not have to specifically serve persons with disabilities.

- o Example: Carroll Center for the Blind, modernization of elevator

Past

Architectural Access Projects

573

574

- New Hyde Community Center: Installation of accessible toilet room in FY1987.

- Newton Free Library: Installation of automatic door opener at two entrances in FY1994.

- Nonantum Library: Construction of accessible ramp in FY1995.

- Newton Wellesley Newton (NWW): Improvements to create accessible entrance and toilet in FY1998.

- Newton Centre Playground: Creation of accessible asphalt pathway from the Pleasant Street parking lot to the playground in FY2007.

- Newton Highland Playground: Creation of accessible pathway in FY2019.

NEWTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

NEWTON COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

PARKING TICKET AND FINES REPORT

MARCH 2020

TOTAL NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED	20
TOTAL VALUE OF TICKETS ISSUED	\$ 4,100.00
REDUCTION AMOUNT	\$ 1,400.00
TOTAL AMOUNT PAID	\$ 600.00
TOTAL OUTSTANDING	\$ 2,100.00

CODE # 26 ACCESSIBILITY SPOTS

NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED	12
TOTAL VALUE	\$ 2,500.00
REDUCTION AMOUNT	\$ 800.00
TOTAL AMOUNT PAID	\$ 400.00
TOTAL DUE	\$ 1,300.00

CODE # 27 CURB CUTS

NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED	8
TOTAL VALUE	\$ 1,600.00
REDUCTION AMOUNT	\$ 600.00
TOTAL AMOUNT PAID	\$ 200.00
TOTAL DUE	\$ 800.00

NEWTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

NEWTON COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

PARKING TICKET AND FINES REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2020

As of March 31st, 2020

FY 2020 Year-to-date Parking Ticket Totals

TOTAL NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED	334
TOTAL VALUE OF TICKETS ISSUED	\$ 67,800.00
REDUCTION AMOUNT	\$ 22,600.00
TOTAL AMOUNT PAID	\$ 33,695.00
TOTAL OUTSTANDING	\$ 11,795.00

CODE # 26 ACCESSIBILITY SPOTS

NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED	235
TOTAL VALUE	\$ 47,700.00
REDUCTION AMOUNT	\$ 19,400.00
TOTAL AMOUNT PAID	\$ 20,765.00
TOTAL DUE	\$ 7,735.00

CODE # 27 CURB CUTS

NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED	99
TOTAL VALUE	\$ 20,100.00
REDUCTION AMOUNT	\$ 3,200.00
TOTAL AMOUNT PAID	\$ 12,930.00
TOTAL DUE	\$ 4,060.00

Treasurer's Report

Given by Jane Brown, Treasurer of the Commission On Disability

Presented at the April 13, 2020 COD Meeting

As of April 6, 2020, the balances of the COD accounts have not changed and are as follows:

Account # 5500-335518 H-P. Fines-Disability Commission

Type: Receipts Reserved for Appropriation (These funds have to go before the City Council to be appropriated before being used)

Balance: \$61,939

Account # 01C10802-513010 Operation Access – Disability Commission

Set up to pay for targeted enforcement of accessible HP Fines violations by the Police

Type: Special Appropriations

Balance: \$1880.89

Account#C401083-586005 Set up to purchase and install Accessible Pedestrian Signals (APS) units at the Waverly/Tremont intersection

Type: Special Appropriations

Balance: **\$50.50** (8 APS units installed in December 2018)

Account #13D10901 Set up in Fall 2015 to receive Community Access Monitor Program fees and pay expenses)

Type: Revolving Account

Balance: **\$940.00**

ADA COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Given by Jini Fairley, ADA/Section 504 Coordinator, and presented at the April 13, 2020 COD meeting.

Site Visits:

- 1600 Washington St.- with Traffic Engineer to follow up on Rosemary's concerns with APS button

Research:

Old Curb Cut List from CDBG 2014, so far:

- Comm & Washington- completed in 2014
- Comm & Lexington – completed in 2017/2018
- Walnut & Washington – Completion in 2020 – part of the Washington Place apartment complex construction
- Beacon & Grant – Completed in 2016
- Walnut & Lincoln – Originally in TIP (MassDOT)- will find out timeline

Other intersections mentioned at last meeting:

- Washington & Harvard – Completed 2018
- Comm & Walnut – will find out timeline
- Comm & Centre – will find out timeline

Trainings:

- Webinar: Chapter 3 of ADA/ABA Standards-
- Webinar- Accessible Polling Places
- Webinar- ADA & Religious Institutions

Meeting/Events/Conference Calls:

- **MOD with MEMA- online crashed- will reschedule**
- **Planning Board- public hearing on Consolidated Plan & Annual Action Plan**
- **Spoke at The Carroll Center at their Resource Seminar**
- **Census Working Group**
- **DRT- Newton Golf Course – maintenance building addition**
- **DRT- Oak Hill M.S. classroom additions**
- **Quarterly with Mayor & Co-chairs**
- **Interviewed on American Council of the Blind radio program- SoundPrints**
- NewCAL- every other week meeting
- Fair Housing Committee- I attend this monthly- Riverside presented

- Complete Streets Committee & Road Paving- I attend, every other week
- CODA- monthly meeting- on phone with other CODs and ADA Coordinators
- Open Space & Recreation Plan Committee-updating the 2013 plan